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**Jepri Ali Saiful**

# *Me and Formosa*

An Anthology of Nature Poetry



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 Penerbit  
**litrus.**

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# Preface

Alhamdulillah, I am so grateful to the one and only, the Almighty God, Allah and his messenger, Muhammad who have blessed and guided me to find my green identity in Islam. I also express my special thanks to my family who supports me along the way to complete this anthology. Indeed, I also express my gratitude to Prof. Paichi Pat Shein, from Institute of Education, College of Social Sciences, National Sun Yat-sen University, Taiwan who help me develop my perspectives and identity as environmentalist in the realm of education during my doctoral degree. I also express my greatest thanks to Prof. Lu, Li-ru from Department of Foreign Languages and Literature, National Sun Yat-sen University, Taiwan who help me build comprehension on ecocriticism theory and practices as well as environmental history and movements in her course of Ecocriticism and the American Nature Writing Tradition. The last, I express my special thanks to my colleague, Ari Setyorini, MA from Department of English Education, Muhammadiyah University of Surabaya who introduced and always become a friend for discussion on environmental issues, especially ecocriticism and its practices.

This anthology of nature poetry aims to help us embrace ourselves and our identity, build our positive relationship with nature and nations, and take persistence actions to save our Earth from environmental crises.

Kaohsiung, Taiwan  
Surabaya, Indonesia

Jepri Ali Saiful

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# Me and Formosa



101 Tower, Taipei

Formosa is Taiwan

Me, Jepri, is an immigrant

We both meet in a beautiful Island

A Lotus Land



Formosa and Me  
Creating stories in an origami  
About the fire of chili  
About the sweetness of lychee

Me and Formosa  
Cutie, like daisy and dahlia  
Strong, like black bear and gorilla  
Brother, like Kaohsiung and Surabaya

Formosa and Me  
Always amazing and happy



# Sea



Kaohsiung Warehouse Port No. 2, Kaohsiung

Sea, you never complain  
how hard wind moves you insane  
Sea, you never complain  
how souls create your pain

Sea, if ever you could complain  
You ask - souls, ships, everything would fain  
No - sea, you can't and not allowed to complain  
Just keep silent and accept the rain  
Sea what you see just useless attain  
never get what you want and still remain  
Now, you should regain  
to where you begin



# Sun



Xiyang Rainbow Bridge, Penghu

Sun  
your lights outrun  
anything and like flashgun  
to have nature and humans run

Sun

If we always run and run  
our times and efforts will overrun  
might not able to eat our sweet bun

Sun

Indeed, our life is full of fun  
painting what we have begun  
Yet, sometimes, why you and life make us stun?



# A Bogi Dog



Longfeng Fishing Port, Miaoli

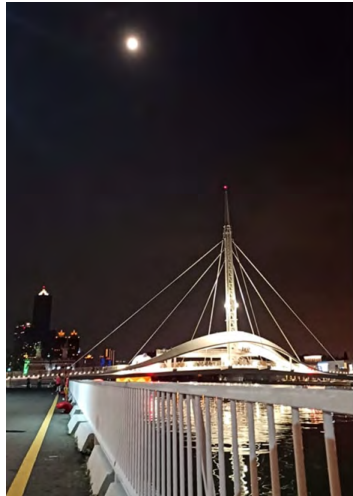
A Bogi dog, call it that way  
He runs happily and throw sad away  
He's been keeping my sloth; he's forestay  
No doubt, let's give him devotion everyday

Bogi likes to play  
When sunlight is about to go away  
He's always happy and never does he say  
"I am tired" and then do astray

Bogi, thanks for always stay  
Bringing happiness to my sloth which never decay  
Bogi, thanks for being a runway  
of a joy flight lands on my sloth's life – never delay



# Moon



Dagang Bridge, Kaohsiung

Moon

Your light throws away darkness

swipes sadness

Brings hapiness



Moon

Above Earth - you witness souls' greediness

Watch every kindness

And count inch of forlornness

Moon

Please stop our over rightness

We tend to be heartless

Favoring madness than gratefulness



# Ocean



Longpan Park, Pingtung

Ocean

You experience all colors of story  
happiness and sadness,  
of travelers painting you  
black and white, pink and blue

Ocean

heat from sun, cold from storm

never does you complain

Instead - enjoying your destiny

feel no pain

Ocean

would it be nice to be you?

drinking pleasantly the stories again and again

Would it be possible to be you?

Swimming deep down on you, put my stories, born again



# Mountains



Lingkiau Bay, Kenting

Mountains

Spreading your leg on Earth nurtures all souls

Never does you betray us and make a foul

Yet, the souls to you – they're like ghouls

Mountains

Could I be you?

Or am I now like you?

In my shoulder lives the souls, thou

Mountains

Won't you take a rest for a moment?

Put the given tasks that you should do

Unfortunately, that's impossible to do



# Monkey



College of Liberal Arts, NSYSU, Kaohsiung

Monkey

Perceived naughty and wild

Coz taking all foods

In their territory?

Monkey

Smart in showing your ability

Getting what you want and protecting your community  
of humans need to learn for unity

Monkey

Did you choose to walk on your destiny?

Amazing...! Coz you're alone and explored humanity  
in heavy rain, evidence that it wasn't your insanity



# Caves



Xiaoliuqiu Island, Pingtung

Cave, been thinking to escape  
From things driving me crazy overnights  
Cave, why me on the cage  
Want to go out and see the lights

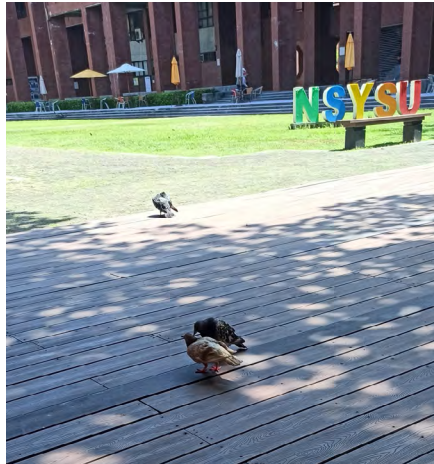


Cave, you're strong  
Let me hide behind you for so long  
Cave, you're dark and mysterious  
Let me come to you, though I'm so anxious

Cave, would it be alright I come to you?  
To share my stories coz I believe it's only you  
Understand me with no words to reply  
feel free to say anything – won't imply



# Pigeons



School Yard, NSYSU, Kaohsiung

## Pigeons

Are symbol of faithfulness and commitment  
living with patience, adjustment, and agreement  
in the same soul, no abandonment

Pigeons

Two of you agreed, sharing happiness and sadness

Body on body erase boredom and forlornness

Panting your days with joy & tears; all happiness

Pigeons

This is not the two – you thought

But the one, alone, with the other of the two – what?

Playing around; caught, it's hurt; JUST A symbol? this doubt



# Lake



Sun Moon Lake, Nantou

## Lake

In the middle of the mountains, you spark your beauty  
Feeding humans' eyes and stomach with your admiralty  
Bring souls joy and you're happy

Lake

I know that you also have a mystery  
Hiding in your beauty; the nights come I see it clearly  
Even naked stars and sky acknowledge it blatantly

Lake

It's ok not to be ok  
You have other side, show your confidence  
embrace yourself, your life be happier and no imprudence



# Cloudy Sky



Cijin Island, Kaohsiung

Cloudy sky

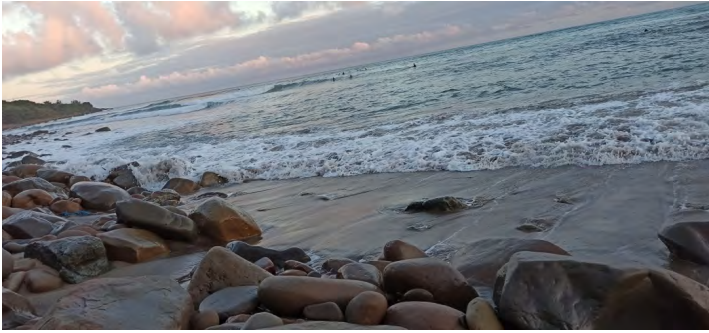
Your presence indicates the coming of life  
Some scared, some happy when you play your fife  
I know - you just ensure your song reach the nife

Cloudy sky  
I believe in your melody  
In every note you hit the Earth with harmony  
Though most of the time, we interpret it with agony

Cloudy sky  
Every time you come to us  
Never forget bringing your partner, the bright  
Feeding souls with the beautiful light



# Rock



Beach in Checheng Township, Pingtung

Rock

You are strong

Although how many time waters

Try to fade you



Rock  
You are hard  
Showing your bold will  
To stand still

BUT, Rock  
You are not always strong and cannot always stand still  
At times, you will be in pieces  
to experience the broken to be awoken



# Trees



Park around Kaohsiung Exhibition Center, Kaohsiung

Trees

See..., you are beautiful

Colorful

Make others cheerful

Tress

I know that beauty is painful  
stand still from strong wind  
Cry from stormy rain

Tress

I know, it's hard, but it must be  
I know, it's tired, but we cannot be  
In a moment and dream that we want to be



# Flower Garden



Wushantou Dam, Tainan

Flower Garden

Flowery, greenish

Make me wish

getting my wish

Flower Garden, my wish came true  
Experience you  
Like you  
But cannot in glue

Flower Garden, I know it's true  
We can't be through  
The sorrow will sue  
We'll be blue



# Clean and Blue Sea Water



Cho-Island, Penghu

Sea Water

See it's very clean and blue

It's so pure and attempting

For swimming and diving

Clean and blue sea water  
Reflects sacred feeling together  
No matter  
Forever

Clean and blue sea water  
However, it's too deep  
Dangerous for newcomer  
Even for old player  
Definitely, NOT for believer



# Pink Rose



Fenqihu Old Street, Chiayi

A pink rose

Pretty, had me took some photos

Looking fresh, want to bring it home, but NO NO

Coz the fate says let it go





# Tea Garden



The Yuyupas Tsou Cultural Tribe Park, Alishan, Chiayi

## Tea Garden

Where life is like in the heaven

Bring peace and refreshment

To adults and children

Tea Garden

Spreading the beauty over the mountain  
Splendid looking everyone awaken  
Giving an experience which never forgotten

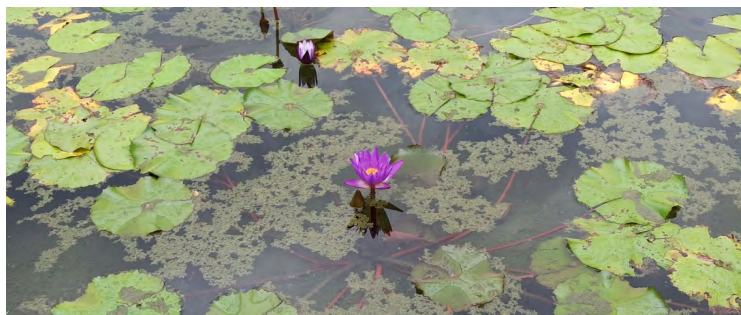
Tea Garden

In a sudden

Everyone goes back to kindergarten  
Plays happily freely with you, feels enlighten



# Purple Water Lily



Shoyoen Heritage Building, Kaohsiung

Water lily

Your purple color sparks beauty

Your green hands hugging destiny

You always give your fellow creatures good hospitality

Water lily

I see you stand alone, lonely

Don't you feel anxiety?

Coz lots of life under your responsibility

Water lily

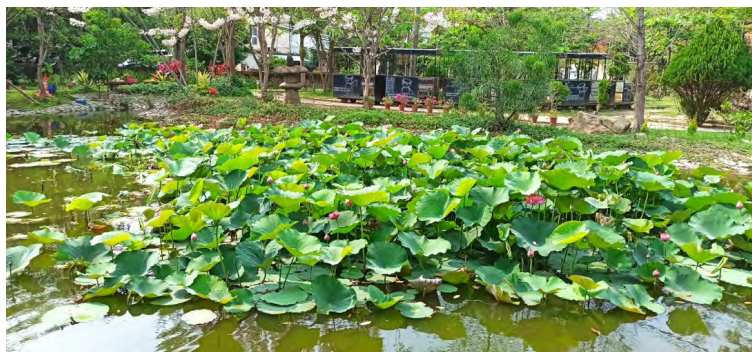
Enjoy yourself and your moment, your egoity

Your own destiny, your gritty

Including your dirty



# Lotus



Ten-Drum Cultural Village, Tainan

Lotus

You are beautiful

Your smile is also so graceful

Peaceful

Lotus

Have you ever given your best smile, but you're crying?

Have you ever made sure other's happiness,

But actually you yourself in a sadness?

Have you ever been in those situations?

What did you do?

Lotus

Lotus, Lotus, Lotus

May I, be you?



# A Pine Tree



Penghu Island

A pine tree  
Strong, but me?

A pine tree  
Stand still, but me?

A pine tree,  
I am lonely





# Orange Orchid Flowers



Ten-Drum Cultural Village, Tainan

Orchid

Your orange color is unique  
But sometimes you receive harsh critiques  
Especially to your physique

But, lemme tell you, Orchid  
be proud your color  
be proud of your physique  
just walk elegantly to the naysayers  
and give ‘em a slay mirror

Period.



# A Crab



Budai Sea Bus, Cake Beach, Chiayi

A crab

You walk so fast on track  
You hide in the sand to trap  
And sometimes to take a nap

The crab  
Saw you walked alone  
Felt every ozone on your bones  
no complain and go on

The crab  
Though the bright hit you so bad  
But your persistence to get your goal is no cap  
Then you got what you want, everybody claps



# Snowy Leaves



Central Park, Cianjin District, Kaohsiung

Snowy leaves

Your white color brings peace

You demonstrate what good symbiosis is

You're in a great metamorphosis

Snowy leaves  
Hope every soul on earth is like you  
Respect and support one another in glue  
Embrace all colors, not just blue  
Snowy leaves  
Let's bring peace  
In the lands and seas  
Stop the crises



# Sunset



Sizihwan Beach, National Sun Yat-sen University, Kaohsiung

Sunset

You close the day of lights  
With the new bright at nights  
You witness every sight

Sunset

Let's close the day to start the day  
Let's use the experience to swim the ocean  
Let's embrace sadness and happiness  
For our goodness

Sunset

Let's open a new chapter  
Although it's gonna be a roller coaster  
But stay positive, it'll make you stronger  
Better and happier



## About the Poet

Jepri Ali Saiful, Ph.D., a nature poet, and an environmental activist. He is also a scholar in empirical ecocriticism and education for sustainable development. He is also a founder of Eco-ELT concept, a study and practice of environmental issues in the field of English education. His highest educational background was completed in the International Graduate Program of Education and Human Development (IGPEHD), National Sun Yat-sen University, Kaohsiung, Taiwan. He has great interests in nature writing and research as well as practices in education. He can be contacted via e-mail: [jepriali1@gmail.com](mailto:jepriali1@gmail.com)

# Me and Formosa

An Anthology of Nature Poetry

"Welcome to the world of nonhumans"

This anthology of nature poetry contains 25 poetries that encompass nonhuman animals, plants, and beings such as a rose, a lotus, a crab, a rock, mountains, and so forth. It is like travel stories about the natural environment in cities in Taiwan. Thus, there will be photos of nonhuman beings along with their poetries.

This nature poetry anthology aims to develop our appreciation and sense of unity towards nonhuman beings. It is also devoted to reminding us to always embrace and be proud of ourselves and our identity. In the end, it aims to encourage us to take continuous actions to save our Earth from environmental crises.

"Let's save our Earth NOW....!!!"

